

REMARKS

This application is a continuation of co-pending parent application Serial No. 09/850,251, filed May 7, 2001, which has been allowed. During prosecution of the allowed parent application, the Examiner issued an Election/Restriction Requirement and original Claims 7-9, 26-28 and 50-52 were withdrawn as directed to non-elected subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits this PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT to pursue examination of the claims withdrawn from the allowed parent application.

By this PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT, applicant has canceled Claims 1-6, 10-25 and 29-60, most of which were allowed in the parent application. As such, Claims 7-9 and 26-28, and new dependent claims 61-83, are pending in this application.

Claims 8 and 27 have been rewritten herein to appear in independent to include many of the limitations from canceled independent Claims 1 and 20, respectively. No new matter has been added. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Similarly, dependent Claims 7 and 26 have been amended to depend from independent Claims 8 and 27, respectively. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

New Claims 61-83 have been added to depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent Claims 8 and/or 27. The limitation(s) recited in each of these new dependent claims corresponds to that recited in the dependent claims originally filed in the application. No new matter has been added. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT prior to an action on the merits of the claims. It is believed that the claims, as presented in this PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT, are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of the instant application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

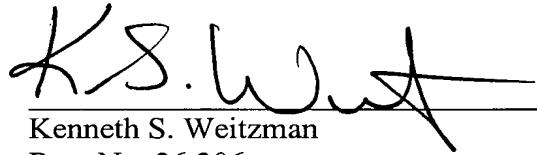
AUTHORIZATION

Applicant believes that no fees is necessary for the submission of this Preliminary Amendment, however, should any fees be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees which may be required for this Preliminary Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to **Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 7015-4000US2**. A **DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

By:



Kenneth S. Weitzman
Reg. No. 36,306

Dated: October 27, 2003

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